

I extend my most sincere congratulations to Kelsey Owens and I wish her the best of luck in her academic and athletic career.

**RECOGNIZING THE CHATTY HATTY
RED HAT LADIES OF RAINBOW
SPRINGS, FLORIDA**

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a group of women from Rainbow Springs, Florida who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in their efforts to help the soldiers serving in Iraq. The Chatty Hatty Red Hat Ladies of Rainbow Springs have adopted soldiers serving in Iraq, sending them care packages each and every month. The Ladies deserve recognition for their efforts.

Earlier this year, the Red Hat Ladies contacted my office to find soldiers from the 5th District currently deployed in Iraq. The Ladies were looking to adopt a couple of soldiers from the district and to send them packages filled with necessities and goodies. These women wanted to let our troops know their friends back home support their service in the Global War on terror.

As you might imagine, those first few soldiers grew to nearly 30 soldiers that the Ladies eventually adopted. Each month they put together three large care packages for the troops, and once a quarter they send over a special box of movies so that the soldiers can have a "movie night," complete with packages of popcorn.

To help celebrate Christmas, the Ladies and their friends took up collections and donations to ship the troops a Christmas tree with all the trimmings, as well as individual stockings stuffed with gifts. This way the soldiers can enjoy Christmas, even though they are still serving in Iraq and missing their friends, family, and loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, volunteer groups like the Chatty Hatty Red Hat Ladies of Rainbow Springs are just one of the thousands of dedicated organizations throughout the Nation who support our troops overseas. Millions of Americans have donated their time and their money to ensure that our troops know the folks back home support their mission and hope they return home safely. The Red Hat Ladies are to be commended for starting this adopt-a-soldier program and for helping to brighten their days of service.

**DEMOCRATIC PACIFIC UNION
SPONSORS INTERNATIONAL SYM-
POSIUM ON DEMOCRACY AND
CONGRESS**

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, this December 8–10, an international symposium on democracy and congress will be held in Taipei, Taiwan. The symposium is sponsored by the Democratic Pacific Union (DPU), a non-govern-

mental organization founded in 2005 in Taipei for the purpose of fostering better relations among members of parliaments from countries around the Pacific Rim.

This year's symposium will feature speakers from a number of countries, including Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the United States and Taiwan. Taiwan Vice President Annette Lu, the driving force behind this year's symposium, is to be commended for putting this conference together.

I support and endorse the symposium's goal: It is time for everyone in the international community to respect one another, to abide by international norms, and to respect the common values, namely, democracy, peace and prosperity.

I hope my colleagues will find the time to participate in this important symposium on democracy and congress.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM BLOCK

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to William (Bill) Block of Morrison County, Minnesota, who recently retired after serving 24 years as a Morrison County Commissioner representing District 5. Bill has rendered long, distinguished, and dedicated service for his community and the State of Minnesota.

First elected as a Morrison County Commissioner in 1983, Bill's list of accomplishments is both lengthy and varied. Under his stewardship, Morrison County expanded its airport, built a new Government Center, implemented a county-wide 9–1–1 system, promoted economic development, developed the Belle Prairie Park as a premier visitors destination, resolved a recurring flooding problem from Fletcher Creek, converted an abandoned railway into a recreational trail, and improved highway safety.

As County Commissioner, he brought together individuals with diverse and sometimes contentious positions through his dedication, hard work, and diplomacy. Admired by his fellow Commissioners, department heads, and county employees, I know that Bill will be sorely missed.

I wish Bill and his lovely wife Barb well as they move onto other life pursuits. Because of the many contributions he made to his community, Bill deserves to hang out his "Gone Fishing" sign.

I am proud and honored to share with my colleagues this well-deserved tribute to Bill Block, who has given so much of himself to enrich the lives of others and to serve his community.

RECOGNIZING PATRICIA BASS

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Patricia Bass, one of Philadelphia's and the Nation's leaders in our collective efforts to pro-

vide high quality, accessible care and treatment to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Ms. Bass played a central role in building Philadelphia's response to HIV/AIDS as the co-director of the AIDS Activities Coordinating Office. Today, I rise to salute Ms. Bass's tenure as Chair of the Communities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief Coalition. CAEAR Coalition is a leading voice for the treatment and care needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. Ms. Bass has served as Chair of CAEAR Coalition for 6 years, leading the organization in its annual efforts to secure increased appropriations for the Ryan White CARE Act. She has also guided CAEAR Coalition's collaborative and evidence-based efforts over the past 3 years to reauthorize a strengthened Ryan White CARE Act that responds effectively to the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS in the United States. Consistently mobilizing its members across the county to advocate with their elected officials on behalf of the care and treatment needs of people living with HIV/AIDS, CAEAR Coalition epitomizes the important role that our constituents play in helping us to understand the needs of those in the communities we represent.

Ms. Bass's experiences and perspective as a nurse and African American woman who has worked on the frontlines of the epidemic inform her understanding of HIV/AIDS and its impact on communities of color, and her voice has been critically important in policymaking discussions and dialogue with Congressional leaders and staff.

I know that when the Ryan White CARE Act is reauthorized, the provisions in the final law will undoubtedly be better because of Ms. Bass's vision, leadership and long-term commitment to a coalition comprised of those giving and receiving care and committed to carrying those experiences directly to their elected representatives.

Today, I rise to thank Ms. Bass for her leadership and wish her much success in her continued efforts to ensure that people living with HIV/AIDS at home and abroad have the care and treatment they need.

**TRIBUTE TO MARGARET FORGACH
CUMMINGS**

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Margaret Forgach Cummings, a tireless public servant for the Pima County Sheriff's Department. Ms. Cummings, currently a Deputy Sheriff, will be retiring after serving the citizens of Pima County for more than 20 years.

She has served my community with honor and compassion throughout her career.

She started her service as a volunteer crisis advocate with Pima County Attorney's Victim-Witness Program. Her stellar commitment and performance as an advocate laid the foundation for her to participate in a Meditation program with a grant from Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA). She was one of five individuals that initiated the program at the South Tucson Police Department.

Her reputation and selfless devotion as volunteer earned her the opportunity to become a Police Dispatcher for the South Tucson Police Department. Mastering that position, she

proved to be an invaluable member in support of the city's police force. Recognizing her abilities, the police department trusted Margaret with further responsibilities, and through the 1980's Margaret served her community with distinction as Emergency Radio Dispatcher.

More recently, Margaret has benefited the Tucson community by volunteering as Reserve Deputy of the Pima County Sheriff's Department, in addition to her duties as a Public Safety Dispatcher. Her dedication to the well-being of the residents of Tucson makes her an outstanding citizen and public servant, and I am honored to recognize her efforts.

RETIREMENT OF DR. LINDA J. FURIGA OF THE DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Dr. Linda J. Furiga, who will retire from the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) of Fort Belvoir, Virginia, on January 3, 2007. Her distinguished government career spans 40 years, and her record of achievement during this period reflects great credit upon herself and upon the organizations with which she has served. Her contributions to the National Defense will be missed as she moves on to new opportunities.

Dr. Furiga is a member of the Senior Executive Service and has received numerous awards during her 40-year career. Most recently, Dr. Furiga was recognized for her outstanding service with the President's Distinguished Rank Award.

She began her civil service career as a Secretary Stenographer with the Air Force in 1967. With great drive and determination, Dr. Furiga quickly transitioned to a professional career field in financial management with the Defense Logistics Agency.

Dr. Furiga has since held numerous financial management positions in DLA and was also briefly the Director for Resource Management at the Defense Acquisition University. On July 7, 1997, Dr. Furiga became the DLA Comptroller and served in this capacity until her retirement.

As Dr. Furiga transitions from her role as a key financial leader in the Department of Defense to other pursuits, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Furiga on her retirement. Her dedication and service to the Federal Government is a model for others to follow, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF DR. ANSON ELLIOTT

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Anson Elliott, head of the Department of Agriculture at Missouri State University in Springfield, MO, for being named the Agriculture Leader of the Year by the Agriculture Leaders of Tomorrow program. He has

dedicated 38 years to not only being a leader himself, but mentoring many of today and tomorrow's agricultural leaders.

As head of the MSU Department of Agriculture, Anson oversees seven undergraduate comprehensive degree programs and collaborates on the administration of three Masters Degree programs. Additionally, Anson is responsible for the budgets of three off campus agriculture centers and has budgetary responsibilities for various foundation accounts including oversight of private, public and foundation grants. Anson has several publications, including a chapter in an American Society of Agronomy book on the hybridization of crops. In addition to administrative responsibilities, Dr. Elliott teaches three classes on a yearly basis and serves as an advisor to student organizations.

Anson Elliott is making a difference in America's agricultural community. As an advisor and a friend of mine, it gives me great pleasure to offer these words of congratulations to a true leader in Missouri agriculture.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
ROBERT LOCKWOOD, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in joyful remembrance of the life and work of Robert Lockwood, Jr., a giant of Delta blues, whose music and spirit will leave a lasting legacy in Cleveland, his hometown since 1961.

Born in Turkey Scratch, Arkansas, Robert Lockwood, Jr., began playing the guitar at the age of 11. Under the tutelage of master bluesman Robert Johnson, Lockwood was playing professionally by the age of 15.

Over time, Lockwood developed a unique musical style of his own, going beyond the Mississippi Delta Blues he mastered as a youth. Two of his albums, "I Got to Find Me a Woman" and "Delta Crossroads" were nominated for Grammy Awards. He is the recipient of numerous honors, including the National Heritage Fellowship presented to him by HILARY CLINTON in 1995, two National Blues Music Awards from the Blues Foundation, induction into the Blues Hall of Fame, and honorary doctorates from Case Western Reserve and Cleveland State Universities.

Home of the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame, Cleveland's diverse cultural community thrives on music and art. Robert was a regular performer for years in the popular Fat Fish Blue, a blues-themed restaurant and bar in Cleveland, and in venues all over the city. Robert's infectious music and hypnotic finger-picking has left an indelible stamp on Cleveland as well as a whole musical genre.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory and legacy of Robert Lockwood, Jr., protege to Robert Johnson, mentor to B.B. King, and entertainer to generations of fans. His soulful blues and personality will live on in our hearts.

CONGRATULATING ASHLEY BYRD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ashley Byrd for earning a spot on the Texas Girls Coaches Association's All-State Volleyball Team. This honor is awarded to top female athletes for their superior performance on the court.

The Texas Girls Coaches Association is the largest group of girls' athletic coaches in the Nation, and serves the coaches and administrators at every level of education. The elite All-State Volleyball Team is selected by a committee panel of coaches and administrators, and is comprised of the most competitive female athletes in the State.

As a senior at Denton Ryan High School in the 26th District of Texas, Ashley manages to give her absolute best efforts when the team requires it most. Ms. Byrd has led the Lady Raiders to their first playoff berth since 2000, and was named the District 4-5A Most Valuable Player.

I extend my most sincere congratulations to Ashley Byrd and wish her the best of luck in her academic and athletic career.

H.R. 4766, ESTHER MARTINEZ NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES PRESERVATION ACT OF 2006

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4766, the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act of 2006. This measure will empower Native American tribes, organizations, and colleges as they seek to preserve Native languages and cultures.

In many Native American communities, Native languages are disappearing at an alarming rate. It is estimated that only 20 indigenous languages will remain viable by the year 2050. Providing grants to Native American language programs consisting of language nests, survival schools, and restoration programs will bolster the effort to preserve this important part of our Nation's history and culture.

By encouraging a greater focus on Native language programs, we are not only striving to preserve the identity of the Nation's tribes, but we're encouraging greater academic performance among Native American students as well. In fact, the legislation requires that Native American language survival schools work toward a goal of all students achieving both fluency in a Native American language and academic proficiency in mathematics, reading (or language arts), and science. It is our intention that students in survival school programs demonstrate adequate progress in English proficiency according to their appropriate grade level.

It is also our intention that the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Native Americans administer this program in such a way that Native American survival school grantees be required to obtain parental